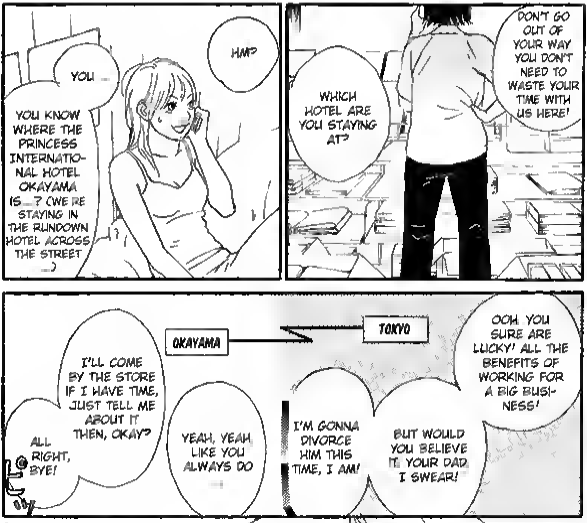
Chapter 3

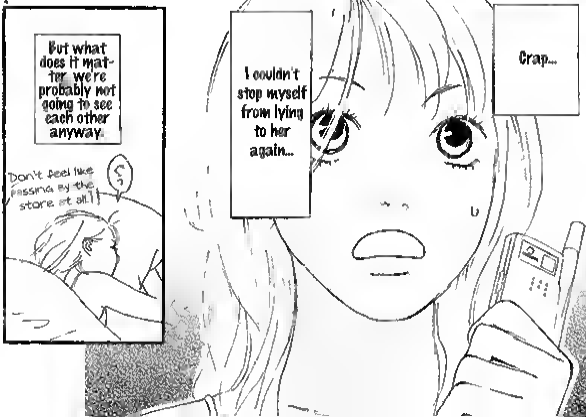
お母さんだ!!

Mom!!

おろろーんばいばい
おろろーんおろろーん
HE HELLO...?
SAE!
YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT YOUR DAD JUST TOLD ME!!
I'VE GOT A TOUGH DAY AHEAD OF ME, SO IF YOU COULD JUST LET ME SLEEP A BIT...
ARE YOU GOING TO IGNORE ME AS WELL?
IF ONLY YOU KNEW HOW LONELY I'VE BEEN FEELING HERE!
MO... MOM...
2
I HOPE THAT AT LEAST YOU'RE DOING WELL?
ARE YOU GOING TO WORK EVERY DAY?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?

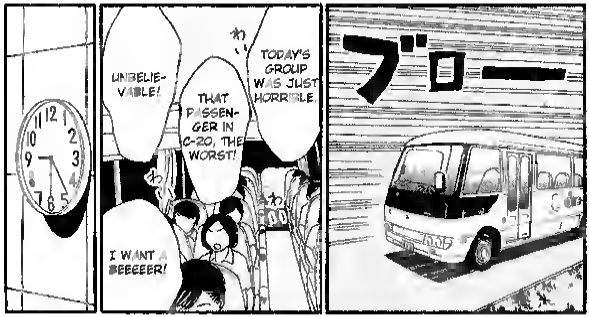
I'M EVEN ABLE TO PUT SOME MONEY ASIDE NOW
I JUST MOVED INTO A NEW APARTEMENT TOO
Sae Yamada, renting room number E-805 you still have to pay six month of rent to the landlor
今年こそ彼氏を作る!!
I'LL BE FINE!
WHAT? A BOYFRIEND?
I'VE BEEN A FLIGHT ATTENDANT FOR TWO YEARS NOW!
OF COURSE!
I'M ABSOLUTELY A PART OF THE EXPERIENCED FLIGHT CREW NOW!
YEAH, I HAVE A FRIEND WHO'S DEFINITELY NOT THE MARRYING TYPE, BUT I'M TOTALLY DIFFERENT, SO DON'T YOU WORRY!
今年こそ彼氏を作る!!
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THE PEOPLE LIKE US HERE. OUR CUSTOMERS COME IN TO DO THEIR SHOPPING JUST TO SEE ME SMILE! HO HO HO!
I'LL BE STAYING IN OKAYAMA TONIGHT ON A RETOUR FLIGHT, I'LL COME VISIT YOU IF I HAVE THE TIME
THAT SO? I'M GLAD
HM?
OH, FINE, FINE!
HOW'S THE CONVENIENCE STORE GOING?
AND YOU?


YOU...
YOU KNOW WHERE THE PRINCESS INTERNATIONAL HOTEL OKAYAMA IS...? CWE'RE STAYING IN THE RUNDOWN HOTEL ACROSS THE STREET...)
HMP
WHICH HOTEL ARE YOU STAYING AT?
DON'T GO OUT OF YOUR WAY YOU DON'T NEED TO WASTE YOUR TIME WITH US HERE!
OKAYAMA
TOKYO
ALL RIGHT, BYE!
I'LL COME BY THE STORE IF I HAVE TIME, JUST TELL ME ABOUT IT THEN, OKAY?
YEAH, YEAH, LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO
I'M GONNA DIVORCE HIM THIS TIME, I AM!
BUT WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT, YOUR DAD, I SWEAR!
OOH, YOU SURE ARE LUCKY! ALL THE BENEFITS OF WORKING FOR A BIG BUSINESS!


But what does it matter, we're probably not going to see each other anyway.
Don't feel like passing by the store at all!
I couldn't stop myself from lying to her again...
Crap...

MY MOM WOKE ME UP AT THE BREAK OF DAWN TODAY...
JUST SOME SMALLTALK ABOUT UN-IMPORTANT STUFF
ふぁ
5
(AND 2 HOURS FOR YOUR MAKE-UP) WASN'T IT?
YOU DIDN'T? I THOUGHT YOU ALWAYS SLEPT AT LEAST 6 HOURS
I DIDN'T GET A WINK OF SLEEP EITHER...
BETTER BE CAREFUL, SAE. LACK OF SLEEP IS NOT GOOD FOR YOUR SKIN
JUST WAIT TILL YOU'VE HIT 25 YOU'LL SEE FOR YOURSELF!
びし!!
SOOOO LUCKY!!
MY BOYFRIEND JUST WOULDN'T LEAVE ME ALONE LAST NIGHT...
STOP THAT, MEGUMI, YOU'RE SCARING ME THERE

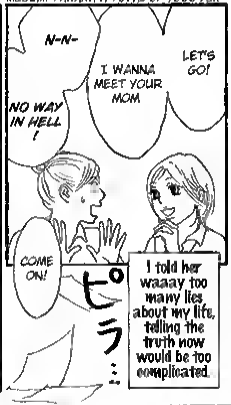
AGAIN? I'VE HAD IT WITH SUPERMARKET FOOD!
VISITING OKAYAMA MEANS VISITING SHINING SUPERMARKETS
DO YOU KNOW ANY GOOD RESTAURANTS?
WE'RE STAYING IN OKAYAMA, RIGHT?
WHAT'S FOR DINNER TONIGHT?
6
NOT REALLY GLAMOROUS, BUT I'LL BE THERE
LET'S HAVE SOME DRINKS IN MY ROOM TONIGHT!
PASS
AH, I ALMOST FORGOT! I WON SOME CHEESE AND DRIED MEAT WITH THEIR SCRATCH CARDS THE OTHER DAY!
I KNOW EACH AND EVERY SANDWICH THEY HAVE ON THEIR MENU!
OKAYAMA
MAY THE FIERY PITS OF HELL CONSUME YOU!!
MY PRINCE CHARMING IN OKAYAMA GOT ME A SUITE AT THE PRINCESS INTERNATIONAL HOTEL
We're gonna start the morning briefing


TODAY'S GROUP WAS JUST HORRIBLE.
UNBELIEVABLE!
THAT PASSENGER IN C-20, THE WORST!
I WANT A BEEEEER!
ブロー

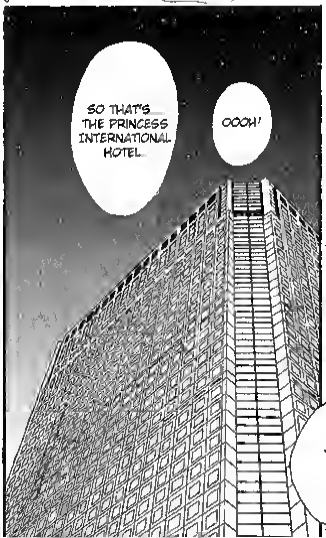
WEDNESDAY, NINE THIRTY.
THEY'LL BE HERE SOON.
キッ
AAAH...

ドロロロ
STORM INCOMING
SUSHI, KATSUDON, FRIED CHICKEN!
WHO WANTS TO SHARE A CHEESECAKE WITH ME?!
YOU IDIOT! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DRINK BEER AND THAT'S FROM A CAN!

PAPER. SAE YAMADA OWES MEGUMI TANAKA A TOTAL OF 3000 YEN


N-N-
NO WAY IN HELL!
I WANNA MEET YOUR MOM
LET'S GO!
COME ON!
ピラ…
I told her waaaay too many lies about my life, telling the truth now would be too complicated.

8



THAT WAS WHAT YOU'D CALL SERVICE
DURING THE ECONOMIC BUBBLE WE ALSO WENT TO THIS HOTEL...
I WONDER ON WHAT FLOOR HER ROOM WILL BE
SHE'S SO LUCKY.
Huh?
I'LL BE STAYING AT THE PRINCESS INTERNATIONAL HOTEL.
Even though I only told her that by chance...
Who would have thought the ANL had such a wonderful past...
NO NOTHING
SOMETHING WRONG?
Must have imagined it...

HOTEL Touch
ハア
SO TIRED..
10
AH, FOUND YOU!
SAE!
SAEEE!
カツ
カツ
BUT WE COULD GROW MUSHROOMS IN YOUR ROOM, SAE
AT LEAST WE HAVE TOILETS AND A BATHROOM IN OUR ROOMS, AND WE CAN LEAVE IT IN A TOTAL MESS IF WE WANT TO
BUT ANYWAY IT'S STILL BETTER THAN OUR DORMS

I WENT LOOKING FOR YOU IN THAT HOTEL ACROSS THE STREET BUT THEY TOLD ME I'D FIND YOU HERE
WHA...
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
NO-MO-MO...
MOM!!
Crap!!
AH, UH, YES ACTUALLY...
HOTEL ACROSS THE STREET? THE PRINCESS INTERNATIONAL?
YOUR PRADA BAG IS SO PRETTY. WHAT YEAR IS IT FROM?
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M ONE OF SAE'S COLLEGUES, YUKA KIKUCHI
I can kiss the rest of my carefully constructed stories goodbye as well!!
If my mom realises I'm spending the night in this rundown place.

THEY ACCIDENTLY BOOKED OUR ROOMS HERE!!
FUNNY STORY, BUT THE COMPANY TOTALLY MESSED UP!
FU...
SO YOU'RE YUKA.
SAE HAS TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT YOU.
THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION. CAN'T SAY I REMEMBER. HO HO.
SHE'D COME HERE, AND WELL
I DIDN'T THINK
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN TELLING YOUR MOM?
SAE
YOU IDIOT!
WE'RE HERE.
I'LL BRING YOU TO OUR HOTEL
ALL RIGHT, FOLLOW ME
YU... YUKA?!
HELLO,
YEAH, IT'S ME.
OKAY.

HERE SAE YOUR KEYS.
YU... YUKA, WAIT!!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PLOT HERE...
I'LL LEND YOU MY ROOM,
WHILE I HAVE DINNER WITH MY PRINCE CHARMING...
YOU GET AN HOUR!
くるっ
ALL RIGHT, MEGUMI AND I ARE SLEEPING OVER THERE
HAVE A NICE EVENING
Tha... thank you, Yuka.
Her heart is just as soft as her skin..
ウィーン
ベロー!
HMP
WHY DOES MY KEY COME BACK WHEN I INSERT IT?
...DAMMIT... WE SHOULD HAVE EXPLAINED TO HER HOW IT WORKS...
13

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE ROOM!!
OOOH!
NOTHING LESS FROM A COMPANY LIKE ANA!
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE COME TO AN HOTEL LIKE THIS!
UWAAAH!! TWO TOILETS!
ONE FOR NUMBER ONE AND ONE FOR NUMBER TWO?!
So this is where Yuka stays every night... Thanks to all her princess charming
ジャラ

PFFEEW.
I WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT YOU COULD LAZE AROUND IN PLACES LIKE HIS FOR YOUR WORK
THIS COUCH, IT'S SO SOFT!
Why did I put it on the taaable?!
My IOU" to Megumiiiiiii!!!
Dawn, what do I do now?
She's gonna see it, she totally is!
And all my lies are going to be exposed!!

I have to get it back, whatever it may take!
ドッキン
ドッキン
ドッキン
YUKA LOOKS LIKE SHE'S A VERY FRIENDLY GIRL, DOESN'T SHE?
ドッキン
WEEELL...
AT FIRST SHE WAS TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO BE AROUND,
ドッキン
BUT YOU COULD SAY I TRAINED HER WELL
16
FUNNY GIRL THAT SAE IS...
LIKE SHE DOESN'T KNOW IT'S ME WHO SAVES HER SKIN MOST OF THE TIME

BUT THAT MEANS THAT THE GIRL WHO'D PROBABLY NEVER GET MARRIED IS THE OTHER ONE?
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT MY CHOICE NOT TO GET MARIED IS ENTIRELY VOLUNTARY AND CAREFULLY THOUGHT OVER!
YOU... YOU THINK SO TOO?
SHE'S RATHER PRETTY, THOUGH NOT REALLY ATTRACTIVE.
HMP A GHOST?

SAY, DID YOU BRING ME BACK SOMETHING FROM TOKYO?
This is my chance!
It's now or never!!
ガサゴソ
HEE?!
キャアアア
WHAT'S THIS LITTLE PIECE OF CLOTH...?
WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO LOOK THROUGH MY BAG?!
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE MY MOM DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WANT...!
ひら
ひら

BHE... BHE HE HE...
ハ？
ハ？
SAE...?
AH!
サッ
ピンポーン
FROM MISTER XXX, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
LOVE YUKA

SAE, ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME?

THIS HOTEL... YOU'RE NOT REALLY STAYING THE NIGHT HERE, ARE YOU?

LOOK AT YOUR WALLET... THERE'S NOTHING BUT LOOSE CHANGE IN IT...

AND THESE RECEIPTS. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU DO ALL YOUR GROCERIES IN 99 YEN STORES

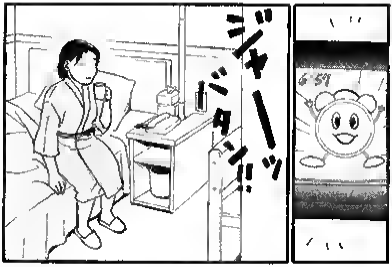
AND THAT IOU, UNDER YOUR SHOE...

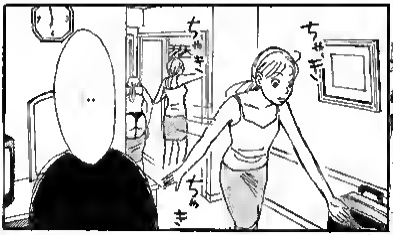
WHY—
WHY'RE YOU SUGGESTING I'M SHORT ON MONEY?!
I WORK FOR ANL, AS YOU SURELY KNOW.
LOVE YUKA
THAT SO?
MAYBE YOU'D RATHER HAVE ME ASKING THE DETAILS FROM YOUR TWO FRIENDS, HIDING BEHIND THE DOOR?
21
Hyaaa!!
YUKAAA !!
THIS ROOM IS YOURS ISN'T IT?
YOU'RE SPENDING THE NIGHT HERE WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND PERHAPS?
W-... WAIT, MOM!!

NO
NOOOOO!!
AH, SAE JUST SNAPPED
I BOUGHT YOU A BIIIIIG CHOCOLATE CAKE JUST LIKE YOU LIKE THEM!
YUKAAA!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE STAYING AT THE HOTEL ACROSS, NO?!
DID OUR STAFF WRONG YOU IN SOME WAY?
IS THERE A PROBLEM, MA'AM?
SAE! YOU NEVER ADMIT IT WHEN YOU'RE WRONG, DO YOU?! ENOUGH NOW!
OH YOU, WHAT A SILLY MISTAKE!
YU- YUKA, YOU GAVE YOUR BOYFRIEND THE WRONG ROOM NUMBER, DIDN'T YOU?

ANOTHER SHOT OF VODKA, PLEASE.
dasai
スナック
五木
ひろし
SAE, ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO BE ABLE TO WORK TOMORROW?
LEAVE ME BE.
JUST LET HER DRINK.
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR THE THINGS YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH BECAUSE OF MY DAUGHTER.
HERE, LET ME PAY FOR HER DEBTS.
BUT TELL ME, WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON WITH ANI?
IT'S NOT LOOKING THAT GOOD, IS IT?
NOT LOOKING GOOD AT ALL.
THINGS GOT WORSE AND RIGHT NOW THEY JUST PUT US IN RENOVATED LOVE HOTELS.
WE USED TO SLEEP AT THE PRINCESS INTERNATIONAL, BUT AS THE YEARS WENT BY,

TEN YEARS AGO...
WE'RE STAYING AT THE BIGGEST HOTEL IN THE REGION!
HOW DARE YOU WALK AROUND HERE IN JEANS AND WITH A PLASTIC HANDBAG?!
I EVEN GOT SCOLDED FOR WEARING PLAIN CLOTHING
WHILE RIGHT NOW SUPERMARKET BENTO HAS BECOME THE NORM
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS
THE BUDGET IS TIGHT EVERYWHERE HUH
24
LUCKILY, OUR LITTLE STORE MANAGED TO AVOID THOSE PROBLEMS!
NOT A WORRY OF THAT KIND IN SIGHT FOR US
MY HUSBAND REALLY IS GOOD AT HIS JOB!
REALLY I'M SO ASHAMED OF MY DAUGHTER... HOW COULD SHE TELL SUCH LIES JUST FOR APPEARANCES?
HERE, I BROUGHT THIS FOR YOU. HOPEFULLY IT'LL FILL YOUR BELLIES FOR A WHILE
ドン
コンビニ
コンビニマート
SAE!! THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FROM DRINKING TOO MUCH!
Asasi
五木ひろし
おぇぇぇぇぇぇ
ゲロ
BWEEURGH!!


ジャーッ
バタン!!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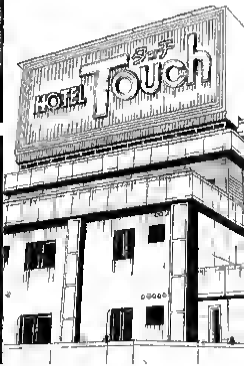
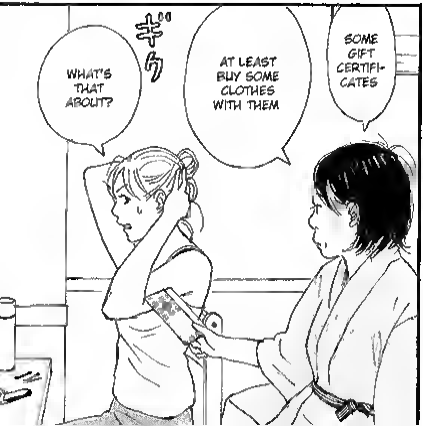

HOTEL Touch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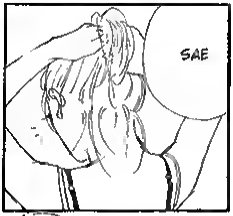
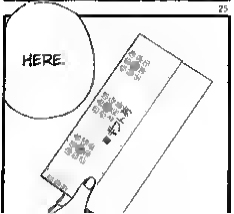
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
AT LEAST BUY SOME CLOTHES WITH THEM
SOME GIFT CERTIFI-CATES


SAE


HERE.

TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST...
WE'RE CLOSING OUR SHOP.
THE STORE'S OPENING SOON, ISN'T IT?
BUT DON'T YOU HAVE TO GO BACK?
YOU'RE SPENDING EVERYTHING ON UNDER-GARMENTS, AREN'T YOU?
YOU THINK I DIDN'T SEE YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING BUT YOUR UNIFORM TO WEAR?
THEY'RE A BIT LIKE BATTLE ARMOUR FOR ME...
WE HAVE ENOUGH MONEY PUT ASIDE TO LIVE ON FOR A WHILE...
NOTHING WENT LIKE WE PLANNED... YOU SHOULD SEE THE STATE YOUR DAD IS IN.
26
WHY ARE YOU SO SURE?
ぱちん
THE THINGS YOU GAVE US TONIGHT, IT WAS WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE STOCK, RIGHT?
...I THOUGHT SO...
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU SOONER..
WHAT?

YOU NEVER LOOK ME IN THE EYES WHEN YOU'RE LYING, DID YOU KNOW THAT?
HAAA...
THAT'S SO LIKE YOU, WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SO PRIDEFUL?
EVEN THOUGH WE WEREN'T EXACTLY SWIMMING IN MONEY,
YOU STILL INSISTED THAT I GO TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL, JUST TO LOOK GOOD
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU THAT I'M LIKE THAT AS WELL!
27
BUT YOU KNOW,
IN THIS LINE OF WORK, IT'S ALL ABOUT AP-PEARANCES
AND IT'S UP TO ME TO PASS OF THIS 100 YEN LIPSTICK AS THE LATEST ONE FROM CHANEL

AND YOUR PRADA BAG— YOU MADE IT YOURSELF, DIDN'T YOU?
SO YOU NOTICED?
SO YOU AS WELL, YOU HAVE TO AT LEAST PRETEND TO BE FINE IN FRONT OF DAD!
OTHERWISE HE'LL NEVER RECOVER FROM THIS
NO THANKS!!
YOU WANT ME TO MAKE YOU ONE TOO?
MOM...
AH!!
五千円
PAPER GIFT CERTIFICATES 5000 YEN / ONLY VALID IN OKAYAMA

GOLDEN ROZE & SHOUJO SENSE PRESENTS:

CA TO OYOUBI

BY HANATSU HANAYO

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